

# A letter written on January 18, 1959 about the Polish immigrants from Poznań to Chappell Hill, Texas by Monsignor John Wesolek, Pastor of St. Stanislaus Catholic Church from October 1939 to July 1985.

Compiled by Dr. Jim Mazurkiewicz

Father John was a direct descendant of Thomas and Franciska Kash Wesolek (grandparents) from the New Waverly immigration. They arrived in Galveston; Texas April 23, 1867 as indentured servants contracted to work in Austin County (Brazos Valley) for three years to pay off their transportation debt. The New Waverly immigration (Walker, Grimes, Austin Counties) led the way to the establishment of 15 Polish parishes along the Brazos River from Marlin to Rosenberg/Richmond, Texas over the next 40 years. This first major group of 100 Polish immigrants were indentured servants and they began to write to family and friends about the high-quality cheap land available and more Polish immigrants began to come to begin a new life as a landowner instead of a serf under Prussian rule in Poznań. As the letter states, these immigrants came from Poznań meaning the region of Wielkopolska (Region of Greater Poland) as did the majority of the Polish immigrants in the Brazos Valley. Poznań was the regional capital of The Grand Duchy of Posen (Poznań).

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand\\_Duchy\\_of\\_Posen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Posen)

3

Catholic  
St. Stanislaus Church  
Chappell Hill

Polish farmers from the region of Poznan who emigrated to America in connection with Bismarck's exterminating policy and settled down in Chappell Hill, attended for some years church services in Brenham. In 1889 a wooden church was founded by Rev. Grabinger of Brenham. After him Rev. Laski took care of this Polish people. The first resident pastor who built the first wooden church was Rev. Theodore Jarvi 1894-97. His successors were Rev. F. Bridal Jan. 1897 - Aug. 98. Rev. Francis Nona, 1898 - 1915 May. In 1900 a hurricane which destroyed the town of Galveston, overthrew the church and a new wooden church was built. In this time the parish numbered 225 families and 125 children attended the parish school. Following was Rev. U.T. Domanski, 1915 - May 1916. Rev. M.J. Tabor 1916 - Jan. 1921 & Rev. M.B. Dudnik Sept. 1921 - Oct. 1928. On December 4-12 1921 the second wooden church was destroyed by fire, together with the rectory. The kind and more massive church was completed in Aug. 1922 resp. 24. Then came Rev. S. Bona Nov. 1928 - Jul. 1929, finally Rev. John Wesolek Oct. 1939 who built in 1940 a new wooden school and in 1957 a modern rectory of brick. At present the parish counts 133 families and the parish school 700 children. Many farmers having sold their property left for California. He Gold D. Wesolek Pastor  
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January 19th 1959.

***Transcription of letter:***

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Rev. John D. Wesolek, Archdiocese

R. Witold Paules, archdiocese, Posnanieski (Poznań, Poland)

January 19th , 1959.